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Application No. 09/923,179
Response dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 21, 2005
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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace lines 3—16 of page 1 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 09/189,159 filed on November 9, 1998, to Anne and Lynn Wheeler (entitled "Account Authority Digital Signature"). This patent application also claims priority in the United States under 35 U.S.C. 119, and under the Paris Convention worldwide, to the benefit of the filing date of Wheeler et al. U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/223,076, which was filed on August 4, 2000, and which is incorporated herein by reference. This application also incorporates herein by reference each of four international patent applications and two U.S. patent application to Anne and Lynn Wheeler filed concurrently herewith in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and bearing serial number PCT/US___/___PCT/US01/41587 (entitled "Person-Centric Account-Based Digital Signature System"); serial number PCT/US___/___PCT/US01/41562 (entitled "Entity Authentication in Electronic Communications by Providing Verification Status of Device") and Ser. No. 09/___,___ 09/923,075 (entitled "Modifying Message Data and Generating Random Number Digital Signature Within Computer Chip") collectively referred to hereinafter as the "VS Applications"; serial number PCT/US___/___PCT/US01/24572 (entitled "Linking Public Key of Device to Information During Manufacture") and Ser. No. 09/___,___ 09/923,213 (entitled "Manufacturing Unique Devices That Generate Digital Signatures"); and serial number PCT/US___/___PCT/US01/24563 (entitled "Trusted Authentication Digital Signature (TADS) System").-